

Journal of Humanistic Mathematics

Volume 10 | Issue 2

July 2020

Natural by Design

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Recommended Citation

Steele, C. "Natural by Design," *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*, Volume 10 Issue 2 (July 2020), pages 557-558. DOI: 10.5642/jhummath.202002.27 . Available at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/vol10/iss2/27>

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POETRY FOLDER



Natural by Design

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“Gridlife” is motivated by the legend that René Descartes (1596–1650) invented Cartesian coordinates when observing a fly walking on the ceiling while he lay in bed.

The inspiration for “Sunflowers” came from memories of when our children had a sunflower playhouse in the yard (actual sunflowers planted closely together and shaped to form a shelter). They used to enjoy eating snacks while sitting in the house, including sunflower seeds.

“Constructals” came to me one day as I was walking past an empty parking lot in Franklin, Pennsylvania, and observed a multitude of ant mounds among the cracks in the black-top.

One November night I was looking out a window at a full moon and was inspired to write “Skyfruit” by the fact that one of our maple trees appeared to have captured the moon within its bare branches.

—CRAIG STEELE, Edinboro, Pennsylvania, USA

GRIDLIFE

who invented
Cartesian coordinates?
wild flies, of course,
free spirits roaming rampant
within our gridded lives

SUNFLOWERS

sunflowers
seedy Fibonacci spirals
awaiting harvest;
edible yantra
for the earth

CONSTRUCTALS

black-topped parking lot
amid chaotic canyonlands of cracks
ants raise Bejan domes,
each dirt crumb placed, just so,
within precise paraboloids

SKYFRUIT

full moon snared
within a maples branches
perfect fractal network
of self-similar replication
holding fruit no tree can bear